

Representing Senate District 19, David Ford served in the Indiana Senate from 1994 until his death from pancreatic cancer on March 5, 2008. His colleagues in the Indiana Senate have lost a dear friend and insightful leader. Public officials across the State will remember him as a tireless advocate for technological innovation. However, the breadth of his knowledge extended to education, agriculture, and judiciary policy as well. In short, he was an able and devoted legislator who performed his duties with intelligence, vigor, and integrity.

Prior to being elected to the Indiana Senate, David Ford served as prosecutor in Blackford County, IN. He was also an accomplished pilot, an active member of the American Agriculture Law Association, a board member of Dollars for Scholars, and the recipient of many State and national awards.

I remember many wonderful visits with David over the years. I was always grateful for his wisdom and counsel, and I hope you will join me in paying tribute to State Senator Ford. May his wife Joyce and his many friends and family members continue to find love and comfort in the memory he has left us.●

HONORING THE SENIORS' RESOURCE CENTER

● Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I wish to honor the 30th anniversary of the Seniors' Resource Center, SRC, in Jefferson County, CO. For three decades, the SRC has delivered critical services to the aging and disabled communities in the Denver metropolitan area through a variety of innovative programs. I salute Jon Zabawa, president and CEO of SRC, his staff, and the many volunteers who have made the Center what it is today.

From its inception as an extension of the Jefferson County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, tasked with providing transportation assistance to the elderly, SRC has consistently received awards and acknowledgements for its terrific services. The National Council on Aging has named SRC one of its five Best Practices Organizations. The National Senior Citizen Education and Research Center has recognized SRC for "outstanding performance in the Senior Aide Program and in enrollment, budget management, and placement." In 2002, SRC was the Colorado Association of Transit Agencies' Mid Transportation System of the Year. In 2004, they were the winners of the Community Transportation Association of America and the Beverly Foundation's "Search for Innovation in Senior Transportation Award." Most recently, the center won the first-ever Non-Profit of the Year Award from the West Chamber of Commerce.

Over the last 30 years, SRC has worked to steadily improve and expand its programs. The organization has grown beyond Jefferson County to 10 other metropolitan counties. Today,

more than 100,000 Colorado citizens have access to SRC's services, including adult day and respite services, in-home care, transportation, care management, referrals to community partners, and job training programs.

In the year 2010, there will be more than 770,000 seniors age 60 and over in Colorado, making organizations such as the SRC even more vital to the health of our communities. I am very proud of SRC's work, and I look forward to several more decades of their service to the community.●

WORKER EDUCATION

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, today I highlight the importance of acknowledging and celebrating extraordinary efforts by Americans who have led the way in protecting and preserving America's natural resources. I am honored to congratulate three educational institutions in my State of Oregon. Columbia Gorge Community College, Lane Community College and the Oregon Institute of Technology.

Recently, Columbia Gorge Community College received \$1.6 million to support the college's community-based job training program to develop skilled technicians for renewable energy facilities such as wind, solar, hydropower and biofuels production. The funding is part of the Department of Labor's Community-Based Job Training Grant Initiative to help community colleges provide area students and workers with the skills needed to stay competitive in up-and-coming industries. The program is the only one of its kind on the west coast. Just in the Pacific Northwest, developers of wind energy facilities will need 300-500 additional workers in the next decade. Since the fall of 2007, Columbia Gorge Community College has offered a 1-year certificate and a 2-year associate of applied science degree in renewable energy technology.

Lane Community College in Eugene, OR, was recently commended for their certificate and 2-year degree programs which train students in energy management and renewable energy. Graduates of the program are in high demand by renewable energy companies. Lane Community College is quickly gaining recognition as a national leader in sustainability and has won five awards in the past 2 years, including the Campus Sustainability Leadership Award from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, and the Outstanding College Recycling Program Award from the National Recycling Coalition.

The Oregon Institute of Technology, OIT, also has earned distinction for offering the Nation's first 4-year undergraduate degree program in renewable energy. The institute is on track to graduate the first class of students this year. Graduating students can seek employment in variety of fields including design, engineering, installation, auditing and programming within the renewable energy sector. Additionally,

OIT is working to become the only college campus in the world to be completely powered by geothermal energy.

I believe that we have a responsibility to encourage efforts to increase the availability of renewable energy and conserve our natural resources. Oregon continues to build on a long history of innovation in environmental policy and practice. These community colleges are leading the way in educating these workers and providing highly skilled workers to the rapidly expanding renewable energy sector in our State and the Nation. I commend them for their efforts and pledge my full support as they move forward.●

TRIBUTE TO JACK H. RHYNER

● Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, last week Jack Rhyner lost his courageous battle against cancer, and Alaska lost a pioneer in our telecommunications industry and I lost a very good friend.

As a young man, Jack worked alongside his father, Richard Rhyner, as he founded TelAlaska. At 16, Jack salvaged telephone equipment damaged in the Fairbanks flood of 1967. Using emery boards to smooth out the gold points on the mechanical switches and high-pressure water hoses and brushes, he cleaned and repaired each component.

Jack and his dad used that salvaged equipment to build the first telephone system in Fort Yukon. Until then, residents of that village shared a single phone line at the airport. Today, more than 300 residents have private lines in their homes and access to DSL Internet service.

In 1982, Jack took leadership of Interior Telephone. Over the years he worked with his wife Donna developing and expanding TelAlaska into a statewide, modern company connecting many of our rural villages to phone service for the first time. Jack's commitment and hard work resulted in dozens of villages—most of them inaccessible by road—becoming connected to the world by telephone systems. In addition, TelAlaska provides DSL service to 12 villages and cable service to 4 small communities including my own hometown of Girdwood.

Jack was appointed to the FCC's Rural Task Force where he worked tirelessly to ensure affordable rates and reliable service in Alaska. As a respected leader in Alaska's telecommunications industry, Jack was often called upon to share his insight into our State's unique communications challenges with Congress, State, and Federal agencies.

Jack's contributions to the advancement of telecommunications in Alaska earned him the prestigious Kaguyak Award from the Alaska Telephone Association. The Western Telecommunications Alliance recognized Jack's dedication to rural telecommunications with the President's Award.

A true Alaskan, Jack was an avid outdoorsman. He enjoyed spending

time with his shooting team which won more than a dozen championships at Birchwood Shooting Park. He would smile when he talked about setting up visits to the communities served by TelAlaska's companies, checking the calendar to ensure that he would arrive in the right season for a day or two of fishing or hunting. It is no surprise, then, that he wanted his ashes spread in the fall at his favorite duck hunting retreat at Cold Bay.

Catherine and I send our condolences to Donna and their sons, Ryan and Richard II, and all who knew and loved Jack. He will be missed.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill:

H.R. 2830. An act to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2008, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act and title 18, United States Code, to combat the crime of alien smuggling and related activities, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 841(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (P.L. 10-181), the Minority Leader appoints Mr. Dean G. Popps of Virginia to the Commission on Wartime Contracting.

At 4:20 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill:

H.R. 5715. An act to ensure continued availability of access to the Federal student loan program for students and families.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2920. A bill to reauthorize and improve the financing and entrepreneurial development programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5613. To extend certain moratoria and impose additional moratoria on certain Medicaid regulations through April 1, 2009, and for other purposes.

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2830. An act to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2008, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act and title 18, United States Code, to combat the crime of alien smuggling and related activities, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 5715. An act to ensure continued availability of access to the Federal student loan program for students and families.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5983. A communication from the General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard for the Flammability of Clothing Textiles" (RIN3041-AB68) received on April 23, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5984. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the feasibility study that was undertaken to evaluate flood damage reduction opportunities for the communities of Cynthia, Millersburg, and Paris, in the Licking River Basin, Kentucky; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5985. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Public Access, Use, and Recreation Regulations for the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge" (RIN1018-AV43) received on April 23, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5986. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting a legislative proposal intended to address the declining balance in the Inland Waterways Trust Fund; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5987. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tier I Issue—Backdated Stock Options Directive No. 2" (LMSB Control No. 4-0308-017) received on April 23, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5988. A communication from the Acting Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to information that was omitted from the original transmittal of the Extradition Agreement with the European Union that was signed on June 25, 2003; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5989. A communication from the Acting Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to information that was omitted from the original transmittal of the Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance that was signed on June 25, 2003; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5990. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a draft bill intended to contribute to an international clean technology fund; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5991. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a draft bill intended to provide for a U.S. contribution to the replenishment

of the resource of the International Development Association; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5992. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a draft bill intended to provide for U.S. contribution to the eleventh replenishment of the resources of the African Development Fund; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5993. A communication from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts, National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Foundation's annual report relative to the Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Program for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5994. A communication from the President, Gallaudet University, transmitting a report relative to the school's desire to appoint a Senator to its Board of Trustees; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5995. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-338, "Transit Operator Protection and Enhanced Penalty Amendment Act of 2008" received on April 23, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5996. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-357, "Procurement of Natural Gas and Electricity Exemption Amendment Act of 2008" received on April 23, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5997. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-356, "Vending Regulation Temporary Act of 2008" received on April 23, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5998. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-339, "Telecommunications Competition Amendment Act of 2008" received on April 23, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5999. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-340, "Clinical Trials Insurance Coverage Act of 2008" received on April 23, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6000. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-341, "East of the River Hospital Revitalization Amendment Act of 2008" received on April 23, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6001. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-345, "Retirement Incentive Temporary Act of 2008" received on April 23, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6002. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-358, "Dedication of Land for Street Purposes, the Establishment of a Building Restriction Line, S.O. 06-9108, and the Removal of a Portion of a 50-foot Right-of-Way from the Highway Plan on Lot 822, in